

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A wholesale discount pricing system for calculating a special wholesale pricing between a wholesaler and a reseller for a transaction between the reseller and an end-user, comprising:

a system for inputting a special pricing request from a reseller to a wholesaler, wherein the special pricing request includes a product identifier and an end-user discount the reseller intends on applying to the transaction with the end-user;

a product mapping system that maps the product identifier to a set of pricing parameters, wherein the set of pricing parameters includes an entitled discount, a maximum discount, a start margin and an end margin; and

a calculation system that calculates the special wholesale pricing based on the set of pricing parameters and the inputted end-user discount, wherein the calculation system includes:

a first routine for handling a case where the end-user discount is less than the start margin;

a second routine for handling a case where the end-user discount is greater than the start margin, but less than the end margin; and

a third routine for handling a case where the end-user discount is greater than the end margin;

wherein the end-user discount at the start margin is given by: $(De - Ms) / (1 - Ms)$, wherein De is the entitled discount and Ms is the start margin.

2. (Original) The wholesale discount pricing system of claim 1, wherein the end-user discount comprises a percentage of a list price for the transaction.

3. (Original) The wholesale discount pricing system of claim 2, wherein the list price is included in the special pricing request.

4. (Original) The wholesale discount pricing system of claim 3, wherein the transaction comprises a sale of a product.

5-9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The wholesale discount pricing system of claim 9, further comprising a bid code processing system that maps the bid code to a margin adjustment and generates a revised start margin and end margin, and inputs the revised start margin and end margin into the calculation system.

11. (Original) The wholesale discount pricing system of claim 1, further comprising an approval documentation generation system for generating an approval document if the special wholesale pricing is approved by the calculation system.

12. (Original) The wholesale discount pricing system of claim 11, wherein the approval document includes:

a description of the transaction;

legal terms and conditions; and
details of the special wholesale pricing.

13. (Original) The wholesale discount pricing system of claim 11, further comprising an audit system for ensuring compliance with the details of the special wholesale pricing.

14. (Currently Amended) A program product stored on a recordable medium for calculating a special wholesale pricing between a wholesaler and a reseller for a transaction between the reseller and an end-user, comprising:

means for inputting a special pricing request from a reseller to a wholesaler, wherein the special pricing request includes a product identifier and an end-user discount that the reseller intends on applying to the transaction with the end-user;

means for selecting a set of pricing parameters based on the product identifier; and

means for calculating the special wholesale pricing based on the set of pricing parameters and the inputted end-user discount, wherein the means for calculating includes:

a first routine for handling a case where the end-user discount is less than the start margin;

a second routine for handling a case where the end-user discount is greater than the start margin, but less than the end margin; and

a third routine for handling a case where the end-user discount is greater than the end margin; and

wherein either (1) the end-user discount at a start margin is given by: $(De - Ms) / (1 - Ms)$, wherein De is an entitled discount and Ms is the start margin, or (2) the end-user discount at an end margin is given by: $(Dm - Me) / (1 - Me)$, wherein Dm is a maximum discount and Me is an end margin.

15. (Original) The program product of claim 14, wherein the end-user discount comprises a percentage of a list price for the transaction.

16. (Original) The program product of claim 15, wherein the list price is included in the special pricing request.

17. (Original) The program product of claim 16, wherein the transaction comprises the sale of a product.

18. (Original) The program product of claim 14, wherein the set of pricing parameters includes an entitled discount, a maximum discount, a start margin and an end margin.

19-21. (Canceled)

22. (Original) The program product of claim 18, wherein the special pricing request further includes a special bid code.

23. (Original) The program product of claim 22, further comprising:

means for mapping the bid code to a margin adjustment; and

means for generating a revised start margin and end margin based on the margin adjustment.

24. (Original) The program product of claim 14, further comprising means for generating an approval document.

25. (Original) The program product of claim 24, wherein the approval document includes:

- a description of the transaction;
- legal terms and conditions; and
- details of the special wholesale pricing.

26. (Original) The program product of claim 24, further means for ensuring compliance with the details of the special wholesale pricing.

27. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for calculating a special wholesale pricing between a wholesaler and a reseller for a transaction between the reseller and an end-user, comprising:

- providing at least one processing unit and a memory operably associated with the at least one processing unit; and

- a wholesale pricing system storable in memory which when executed by the at least one processing unit provides functions including:

- receiving a special pricing request in a standard format from a reseller, wherein the special pricing request includes a product identifier and an end-user discount that the reseller intends on applying to the transaction with the end-user;

- determining a set of pricing parameters for the transaction, wherein the set of pricing parameters includes an entitled discount, a maximum discount, a start margin and an end margin;

calculating the special wholesale pricing based on the set of pricing parameters, wherein
the calculating includes:

a first routine for handling a case where the end-user discount is less than the start
margin;

a second routine for handling a case where the end-user discount is greater than
the start margin, but less than the end margin; and

a third routine for handling a case where the end-user discount is greater than the
end margin;

wherein the end-user discount at the start margin is given by: $(De - Ms)/(1 - Ms)$,
wherein De is the entitled discount and Ms is the start margin; and
outputting the special wholesale pricing.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the special pricing request includes a product identifier and an end-user discount the reseller intends on applying to the transaction with the end-user.

29-32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 ~~claim 29~~, comprising the further steps of:
receiving a special bid code with the special pricing request;
mapping the special bid code to a margin adjustment; and
generating a revised start margin and end margin based on the margin adjustment.

34. (Original) The method of claim 27, comprising the further steps of:

generating an approval document; and

transmitting the approval document back to the reseller.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 ~~claim 24~~, comprising the further step of receiving audit data from the reseller to ensure compliance with the approval document.

36. (New) A wholesale discount pricing system for calculating a special wholesale pricing between a wholesaler and a reseller for a transaction between the reseller and an end-user, comprising:

a system for inputting a special pricing request from a reseller to a wholesaler, wherein the special pricing request includes a product identifier and an end-user discount the reseller intends on applying to the transaction with the end-user;

a product mapping system that maps the product identifier to a set of pricing parameters, wherein the set of pricing parameters includes an entitled discount, a maximum discount, a start margin and an end margin; and

a calculation system that calculates the special wholesale pricing based on the set of pricing parameters and the inputted end-user discount, wherein the calculation system includes:

a first routine for handling a case where the end-user discount is less than the start margin;

a second routine for handling a case where the end-user discount is greater than the start margin, but less than the end margin; and

a third routine for handling a case where the end-user discount is greater than the end margin;

wherein the end-user discount at the end margin is given by: $(D_m - M_e)/(1 - M_e)$, wherein D_m is the maximum discount and M_e is the end margin.

37. (New) A computerized method for calculating a special wholesale pricing between a wholesaler and a reseller for a transaction between the reseller and an end-user, comprising:

providing at least one processing unit and a memory operably associated with the at least one processing unit; and

a wholesale pricing system storable in memory which when executed by the at least one processing unit provides functions including:

receiving a special pricing request in a standard format from a reseller, wherein the special pricing request includes a product identifier and an end-user discount that the reseller intends on applying to the transaction with the end-user;

determining a set of pricing parameters for the transaction, wherein the set of pricing parameters includes an entitled discount, a maximum discount, a start margin and an end margin;

calculating the special wholesale pricing based on the set of pricing parameters, wherein the calculating includes:

a first routine for handling a case where the end-user discount is less than the start margin;

a second routine for handling a case where the end-user discount is greater than the start margin, but less than the end margin; and

a third routine for handling a case where the end-user discount is greater than the end margin;

wherein the end-user discount at the start margin is given by: $(De - Ms) / (1 - Ms)$,

wherein De is the entitled discount and Ms is the start margin; and

outputting the special wholesale pricing.